

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

Pre-K/K-12 Alignment Work Group Meeting Minutes

MEETING COMMENCED	9:30am, July 16, 2015 LBCC Cascade View Room, Albany
MEETING CALLED BY	Kristi May
THWORK GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT	Edie Moro, Shelley Paeth, Julia Young-Lorion, Lauren Sigman, Alison Myers, Renee Smith, Cyrel Gable, Debbie McPheeters, Alicia Larson, Anne Peltier, MaiKia Moua, Lynn Hall, Carol DInges, Dee Curwen, Jim Golden, Bettina Schempf (remotely), Terry Persson (remotely), DeAnn Brown, Robin Limbert, Tab Dansby.
VERSION	Final

Agenda topics

DISCUSSION ITEM	Introduction of Work Group Strategies
	Kindergarten Readiness
	Stable and Attached Families
	Early Childhood services are coordinated, efficient and effective

DISCUSSION ITEM	Talking Points	
	Lauren Sigman stated that school districts tend to feel that with kindergarteners you get what you get; however, if you compare kindergarteners to a manufacturing process, your produce is only as good as your materials. If we can work to get the children be better ready for kindergarten, our outcomes will also be better.	
	Not only do the children need support services, the families need the services so that they can better support their children.	
	Shelley Paeth shared with the group that the State has mapped out areas of children born with low birth weights, which is an indicator of future learning problems. We should be looking to prioritize those areas and provide intervention that will help those children in advance of going to school. The State also has info about teen pregnancy and premature births that of interest to us.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Shelley Paeth will post links to the State's data on Basecamp	Shelley Paeth	ASAP

DISCUSSION ITEM	The Vision, The Funding, and Our Region
	There are 56 elementary schools in the three counties.
	Minority enrollment in the three counties is highest in Lincoln County, at 32%.
	We could not find a map that lists all of the schools in each county, and will probably have to create one of our own, including co-located preschools and those preschools that feed those schools, and having the Title 1 schools highlighted.
	It will also be beneficial to find out what the other school districts are doing to help preschoolers, such as the Sweet Home District pillowcase project where they stuff pillowcases with books and hand them out to children who will be entering kindergarteners.

It's tempting to use total population numbers because there is such a small amount of funding, but in order to meet our goals, we need to really apply our funds to areas where the Kindergarten Assessment are lowest.
Partnership reports:
FTRN – Working in Lebanon on Imagination Library and a preschool program in partnership with the School District and the Presbyterian Church for the children of that District. District is enthusiastic and supportive, and we have seen big successes. Also leasing space at Fairmount School from GAPS. Space is a good issue.
509J – Creating a co-located preschool at Adams School, which will start this fall.
Harrisburg – 3 preschools, including Head Start, a total of about 60 children. Hoping to do Imagination Library. Hoping to coordinate the preschools with the new Superintendent.
ECSE – have requirements by State mandate that they partner with kindergarten teachers and the elementary schools. GAPS has over 100 ECSE transitions moving into the main stream schools this fall.
Old Mill – having trouble getting preschool teachers invited to transition meetings between preschool and kindergarten.
Newport – received board books from schools, and home visitors give them to new mothers at the hospital and reinforce with them that if they bring this book in to the school, they will get another book. It also contains a welcome message from the school. They don't screen: everyone gets a book. In June, they gave out 180 books.
Lincoln County – created Early Childhood Coordinator position to connect with preschools and child care providers before kids come to kindergarten. Also created the LIFT program, servicing children who were wait-listed by Head Start, including homeless children where possible. Kindergarten Assessment data shows that this program is closing the gap with mainstream children. It uses a new focus on blending and braiding funding, which is messy and hard, but it can have fantastic results.
Siletz – the Head Start program is small but it has helped get the tribal children to transition to mainstream school.
Juntos – partnership with GAPS and LBCC to run a parent/caregiver and child play group with an emphasis on literacy. It was used for Spanish-only speakers. Next year GAPS will continue on their own, and will have three classes: 2 Spanish, 1 English. Very successful program.
Strengthening Rural Families – preschool program in Alsea in partnership with the Alsea School District. SRF is fundraising, and Alsea is providing the space. 16 students, \$50,000 – great use of funds. Next year will give them 3 rd grade outcomes, and we'll be able to see results. SRF also had a literacy grant that they used to create a class in Monroe, which was very successful and widely attended.
LBCC – still operating co-op preschools in Scio, Philomath, Halsey, Albany and Corvallis.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Co-Chairs	
Involves meeting over the phone to draft agenda, answer questions, review Basecamp, and then being present at the meetings. Also monthly Leadership Meeting to inform the Governing Board.		
People in the groups do the actual work, the Co-Chairs are not personally responsible for accomplishing the group's goals.		
Still looking for one Chair. Please see Kristi if you are interested.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Still need one more co-chair for Work Group.	Work Group Members	ASAP

NEXT MEETING	August 20, 2015
To be held at Old Mill Center, 9:30-10:30am	
MEETING ADJOURNED	10:30am